

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A top coating composition which comprises a coating film-forming resin (I); and a silicate-grafted resin (IV) resulting from graft polymerization of a silicate compound (II) onto a hydrolysable silyl-containing resin (III).

2. (currently amended): ~~The A top coating composition according to Claim 1, wherein said silicate compound (II) is a modified silicate compound represented by the general formula which comprises a coating film-forming resin(I); and a silicate-grated resin (IV) resulting from graft polymerization of a silicate compound (II) onto a hydrolysable silyl-containing resin (III);~~
wherein said silicate compound (II) is a modified silicate compound represented by the general formula (1):



in the formula, n represents an integer of 1 to 30; at least one of the R¹ groups is an organic group represented by R² – (O –CH₂ – CHR³)_m –, where R² is an alkyl group containing 1 to 8

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carbon atoms, a phenyl group or a benzyl group, R³ is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and m is an integer of 1 to 4, and the remaining R¹ groups each is a methyl or ethyl group.

3. (previously presented): The top coating composition according to Claim 1, wherein said hydrolysable silyl-containing resin (III) is an acrylic resin obtained by radical polymerization of a silanol- and/or hydrolysable silyl-containing, radical-polymerizable monomer (III-a), a hydroxyl-containing, radical-polymerizable monomer (III-b) and another radical-polymerizable monomer (III-c).

4. (original): The top coating composition according to Claim 1, wherein said coating film-forming resin (I) comprises a hydroxyl-containing resin and a polyisocyanate compound.

5. (previously presented): The top coating composition according to claim 2, wherein said hydrolysable silyl-containing resin (III) is an acrylic resin obtained by radical polymerization of a silanol- and/or hydrolysable silyl-containing, radical-polymerizable monomer (III-a), a hydroxyl-containing, radical-polymerizable monomer (III-b) and another radical-polymerizable monomer (III-c).

6. (original): The top coating composition according to claim 2, wherein said coating film-forming resin (I) comprises a hydroxyl-containing resin and a polyisocyanate compound.

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7. (original): The top coating composition according to claim 2,
wherein said coating film-forming resin (I) comprises a hydroxyl-containing resin and a
polyisocyanate compound.

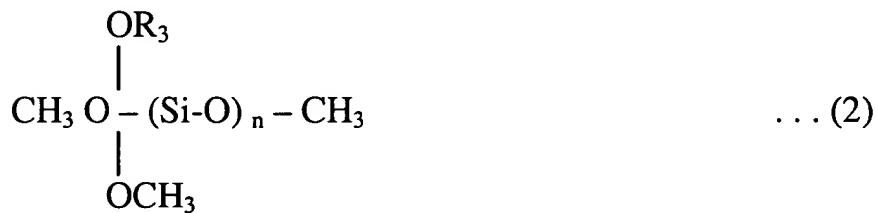
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8. (new): A top coating composition according to claim 1, wherein said organosilicate compound (II) is selected from the group consisting of tetramethoxysilane, tetraethoxysilane, tetra-n-propoxysilane, tetra-i-propoxysilane, tetra-n-butoxysilane, tetra-i-butoxysilane, tetra-t-butoxysilane, tetra-n-pentoxysilane, tetra-i-pentoxysilane, tetraneopentoxysilane; condensation products derived from one or more of them and a modified silicate compound represented by the general formula (1):



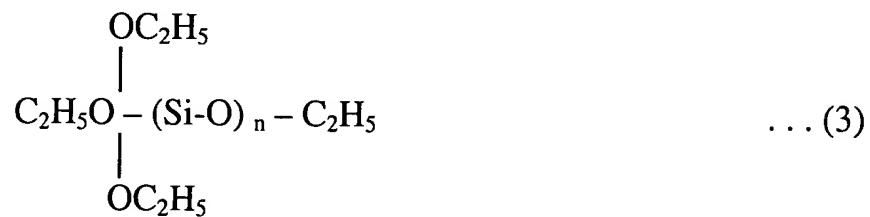
in the formula, n represents an integer of 1 to 30; at least one of the R^1 groups is an organic group represented by $\text{R}^2 - (\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CHR}^3)_m -$, where R^2 is an alkyl group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a phenyl group or a benzyl group, R^3 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and m is an integer of 1 to 4, and the remaining R^1 groups each is a methyl or ethyl group.

9. (new): The top coating composition according to claim 1, wherein said organosilicate compound (II) is selected from the group consisting of methyl silicate or condensation product thereof represented by the general formula (2),



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in the formula, n represents an integer of 1 to 30 and ethyl silicate or condensation product thereof represented by the general formula (3),



in the formula, n represents an integer of 1 to 30 and condensation product thereof.